Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as indicated below. Claims canceled below are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (currently amended) A system for planning energy supply for energy consumers, said system comprising:

a first sub-system operatively associated with at least one energy coordinating body;

a second sub-system operatively associated with at least one energy supplier; and

a communication network between said first sub-system and said second sub-system, wherein each of said first and second sub-systems includes an interface, each interface operatively associated with a processor configured to execute one first automated software routine for exchanging energy planning information between said sub-systems and one second automated software routine for negotiating an energy supply specification from said at least one energy supplier to said energy consumers.

2. (original) The system as recited in Claim 1, wherein said communication network includes a first local area network and a first ICCP server operatively associated with said first sub-system, a second local area network and a second ICCP server operatively associated with said second sub-system, and a global communication network between said first and second ICCP servers.

3. (original) The system as recited in Claim 1, wherein said communication network is a global communication network.

4. (original) The system as recited in Claim 3, wherein said global communication network is the Internet.

5. (original) The system as recited in Claim 1, wherein said at least one energy coordinating body is an energy management system.

6. (original) The system as recited in Claim 1, wherein said at least one energy supplier is a power plant.

7. (currently amended) The system as recited in Claim 1, ~~wherein each of said first and second sub-systems includes a processor; and~~ wherein the interface of each of said first and second sub-systems provides communications between said processors for automated optimization of energy supply planning.

Claims 8-11 (canceled)

12. (original) The system as recited in Claim 8, wherein said energy supply specification includes a plurality of energy supply sub-specifications.

Claims 13-34 (canceled)

35. (currently amended) A system for planning energy supply for energy consumers, said system comprising:

a first sub-system operatively associated with a first energy management system;

a plurality of second sub-systems, each of said second sub-systems being operatively associated with a corresponding second energy management system; and

a communication network between said first sub-system and said second sub-systems, wherein each of said first and second sub-systems includes an interface, each interface operatively associated with a processor configured to execute one first automated software routine for exchanging energy planning information between said sub-systems and one second automated software routine for negotiating an energy supply specification for said energy consumers.

36. (currently amended) A system for planning energy supply for energy consumers, said system comprising:

a first sub-system operatively associated with an energy supplier having a plurality of energy sources;

a plurality of second sub-systems, each of said second sub-systems being operatively associated with a corresponding one of said energy sources; and

a communication network between said first sub-system and said second sub-systems, wherein each of said first and second sub-systems includes an interface, each interface operatively associated with a processor configured to execute one first automated software routine for exchanging energy planning information between said sub-systems and one second automated software routine for negotiating an energy supply specification for said energy consumers.

37. (original) The system as recited in Claim 36, wherein said energy supplier is a power plant having a plurality of turbo sets; and wherein said energy sources are the turbo sets of said power plant.

Claims 38-39 (previously cancelled)

40. (currently amended) An energy planning system for planning energy supply from a plurality of energy suppliers for energy consumers, said system comprising:

a communication interface to said energy suppliers;

a processor operatively associated with said communication interface;

a first automated software routine executed by said processor for exchanging energy planning information through said communication interface between said processor and said energy suppliers; and

a second automated software routine executed by said processor for negotiating an energy supply specification from said energy suppliers to said energy consumers.

41. (canceled)

42. (currently amended) An energy planning interface to an energy management system for use in planning energy supply from an energy supplier for energy consumers, said energy planning interface comprising:

a communication interface to said energy management system;

a processor operatively associated with said communication interface;

a first automated software routine executed by said processor for exchanging energy planning information through said communication interface between said processor and said energy management system; and

a second automated software routine executed by said processor for negotiating an energy supply specification from said energy supplier to said energy consumers.

43. (canceled)

44. (currently amended) A method of planning energy supply, said method comprising the steps of:

employing at least one energy coordinating body;

employing at least one energy supplier;

receiving and coordinating requests for energy at said at least one energy coordinating body;

exchanging energy planning information related to said requests for energy between said at least one energy coordinating body and said at least one energy supplier; and

negotiating an energy supply specification responsive to said requests for energy and from said at least one energy supplier,

wherein a processor operatively associated with a communication interface to the at least one energy coordinating body executes a first automated software routine for the exchanging step and a second automated software routine for the negotiating step.

Claims 45-52 (canceled)

53. (original) A method of planning energy supply, said method comprising the steps of:

employing at least one energy coordinating body;

employing at least one energy supplier;

receiving requests for energy from a global communication network at said at least one energy coordinating body;

employing said global communication network to exchange energy planning information related to said requests for energy between said at least one energy coordinating body and said at least one energy supplier; and

employing said global communication network to negotiate an energy supply specification from said at least one energy supplier and responsive to said requests for energy,

wherein a processor operatively associated with a communication interface to the at least one energy coordinating body executes a first automated software routine for exchanging energy planning information related to said requests for energy between said at least one energy coordinating body and said at least one energy supplier and a second automated software routine for negotiating the energy supply specification from said at least one energy supplier and responsive to said requests for energy.

54. (original) The method as recited in Claim 53, further comprising employing the Internet as said global communication network.

55. (new) The system as recited in Claim 7, wherein the one first automated software routine exchanges at least two messages between the first and second sub-systems, the at least two messages comprising a request message for a proposal for the energy supply specification from the at least one energy supplier related to a request for energy and a proposal message for the energy supply specification from the at least one energy supplier; and

wherein the one second automated software routine exchanges at least two messages between the first and second sub-systems, the at least two messages comprising an offer message for the energy supply specification in response to the proposal message and one selected from the group consisting of an acceptance message for accepting the offer message and a counter-offer message for a modification to the offered energy supply specification.

56. (new) The system as recited in Claim 55, wherein the one second automated software routine evaluates the received proposal message to determine an efficient energy supply specification from the at least one energy supplier.

57. (new) The energy planning system as recited in Claim 40, wherein the first automated software routine exchanges at least two messages between the processor and a corresponding one of said energy suppliers, the at least two messages comprising a request message for a proposal for the energy supply specification from the corresponding one of said energy suppliers related to a request for energy and a proposal message for the energy supply specification from the corresponding one of said energy suppliers; and

wherein the second automated software routine exchanges at least two messages between the processor and the corresponding one of said energy suppliers, the at least two messages comprising an offer message for the energy supply specification in response to the proposal message and one selected from the group consisting of an acceptance message for accepting the offer message and a counter-offer message for a modification to the offered energy supply specification.

58. (new) The energy planning interface as recited in Claim 42, wherein the first automated software routine exchanges at least two messages between the processor and the energy management system, the at least two messages comprising a request message for a proposal for the energy supply specification related to a request for energy and a proposal message for the energy supply specification; and

wherein the second automated software routine exchanges at least two messages between the processor and the energy management system, the at least two messages comprising an offer message for the energy supply specification in response to the proposal message and one selected from the group consisting of an acceptance message for accepting the offer message and a counter-offer message for a modification to the offered energy supply specification.

59. (new) The energy supply planning method as recited in Claim 44, wherein the first automated software routine exchanges at least two messages between the at least one energy coordinating body and the at least one energy supplier, the at least two messages comprising a request message for a proposal for the energy supply specification related to a request for energy and a proposal message for the energy supply specification; and

wherein the second automated software routine exchanges at least two messages between the at least one energy coordinating body and the at least one energy supplier, the at least two messages comprising an offer message for the energy supply specification in response to the proposal message and one selected from the group consisting of an acceptance message for accepting the offer message and a counter-offer message for a modification to the offered energy supply specification.

60. (new) The energy supply planning method as recited in Claim 53, wherein the first automated software routine exchanges at least two messages between the at least one energy coordinating body and the at least one energy supplier, the at least two messages comprising a request message for a proposal for the energy supply specification related to a request for energy and a proposal message for the energy supply specification; and

wherein the second automated software routine exchanges at least two messages between the at least one energy coordinating body and the at least one energy supplier, the at least two messages comprising an offer message for the energy supply specification in response to the proposal message and one selected from the group consisting of an acceptance message for accepting the offer message and a counter-offer message for a modification to the offered energy supply specification.